Impersonation of IT officials to get PAN from BSNL employees

2892. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some firms/agents are impersonating as Income Tax Officers to get Permanent Account Number of BSNL employees in Bangalore if so the details thereof;

(b) the number of BSNL employees who were forced to give their Permanent Account Number; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Employees of a firm named M/s Solitaire Business Services, having its office premises at No. 408/409, B Wing Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-1 were impersonating as officials of the Income Tax Department to get Permanent Account Number (PAN) of BSNL employees in Bangalore.

(b) 159 employees of BSNL were forced to give their Permanent Account Number.

(c) The Income Tax Department has taken several steps in this regard. On 12.7.2005 a survey u/s 133A of the Income Tax Act 1961 was conducted on the business premises of M/s Solitaire Business Services and statements of partners/employees of the firm were recorded. On the same date an FIR with the Police Authorities was filed against the firm for impersonation and misuse of the name of Income - Tax Department. BSNL employees have been cautioned against giving their PAN over telephone. Publicity in local newspapers have been made cautioning the general public against divulging PAN related information to tele-callers or any other such agency/firm

Amount sanctioned for National Social Assistance Programme to Madhya Pradesh

†2893. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the amount of Rs. 8813.32 lakhs to Madhya Pradesh for National Social Assistance Programme for the year 2005-06; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.